

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—as long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1912.

GETTING OFF EASY.

To a person standing on the sidewalk of the Orange street bridge and looking over the confused state of the properties fronting on Orange street, between Cross street and Myrtle street, the conclusion would at once be jumped at that if the town and railroad company get out of that hole for \$5,250 they can both consider themselves remarkably fortunate.

The sum named above is the amount that, in the opinion of the Board of Assessors, the property owners along that part of Orange street above described are entitled to.

When the conditions that existed before the railroad improvement was started are recalled and compared with present conditions, it is evident that many of the property owners will have to spend hundreds of dollars before their properties are again in the normal condition that existed before the street grades were changed.

Perhaps, if it is simply a matter of calculation of how many loads of dirt it will take to fill up a small part of the front of the properties damaged to make them correspond with the new grades, the Board of Assessors may be about right in their estimates. But the dirt fill restores only a small portion of the damage done. Buildings will have to be raised; and in addition to the bill of the house raiser, there will be carpenters, masons, painters and plumbers' bills incurred in the readjustment of buildings, aside from the grading of yards and the laying of sidewalks.

If the Board of Assessors' estimates stand, the members of the board will be entitled to the credit of getting the town off easy.

THE SITUATION AT THE CENTRE

Of the many views expressed concerning the action of the managers of the Bloomfield Savings Institution in placing the columns and steps out on the Broad street sidewalk, the mildest one is that it was a mistake to do so, and the statement is made on good authority that the bank managers themselves admit the mistake.

Accepting the mild form of expression that a mistake was made—one thing must strike the bank managers very forcibly now, and that is the situation created by the "mistake." It could not be assumed that the bank building was to stand out for all time as the one particular building enjoying a "special privilege," that could not and would not be conferred on any other corporate or individual property owner. No one who has studied the situation created at the Centre by the bank's action could reach any other fair conclusion but what some day one or many owners of valuable property at the Centre, desiring like the bank managers to use their property to the best possible advantage, would ask the same rights that was granted to the bank. The justice and fairness of such a request is obvious in considering above the physical feature of the situation created by the bank building.

In the opinion of some people the moral and legal features of the situation are paramount, and for the purposes of argument and debate perhaps they are, but to the practical business man, the physical conditions created appear most forcibly, and it is that phase of the matter that is going to cause confusion and continuous trouble unless some kind of a remedy is applied that will put all property owners on an equal footing, and the most feasible remedy that presents itself and one that can be worked out is the establishment of a building line, not only on that section of Broad street in proximity to the bank building, but along all the streets constituting the business centre of the town. The establishment of a building line can be done by ordinance, according to good legal authority and will dispose of all squabbles over special privileges in the future.

Now is an opportune time to apply the ordinance making powers of the council to the situation, and there should be no hesitancy in taking such action and no unnecessary delay in doing so.

Card of Thanks.

I hereby extend my sincere thanks to the many friends who extended their kindly sympathies and services on the occasion of the illness and death of my beloved wife, Mary E. Faring. I especially desire to thank the pastor and members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Orange, for their highly appreciated kindnesses.

WILLIAM PARTING.

For immediate relief from corns, bunions or other foot troubles go to Dr. C. J. Neff, Surgeon Chiropodist, room No. 8, Trust Company building, -Adv.

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WILLIAM H. WHITE, President.
JOHN SHERMAN, Vice-President.
HAMPDEN E. TENNER, Chairman of Executive Committee.

Assessors Report.

When the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company submitted its plan for improving that portion of its road that traverses the Watessing district, the Board of Assessors was directed to make a preliminary estimate of the probable amount of damages to property owners, resulting from the change of street grades. The approximate estimate made by the assessors was about \$10,000.

The improvement plans upon which the estimate was based differed considerably from the plans that were eventually carried out. The original plans called for a bridge at Willow street and the bridge elevation at Orange street and Watessing avenues was less than the elevation adopted in the construction of the bridges. There has been much speculation as to the possible increase in the damage claims that would result from the changes in original plans and the final report of the Board of Assessors has been awaited with considerable interest. At the Town Council meeting Monday night the report was submitted and was as follows:

"Referring to your request of recent date, as to the damage done to property on Orange street and Watessing avenue, caused by the depression of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company tracks, we recommend the following awards: Letitia Burnett, \$75; James T. Cooney, \$95; Michael Winters, \$2,400; Edgerley & Gilson, \$400; Julia S. Labaugh, \$100; Alfred Johnson, \$200; W. B. Conroy, \$50; estate of Gottfried Kurtz, \$150."

On the matter of the disposition of the report Town Attorney Kocher said that there was nothing in the statutes indicating a method of procedure and it was a matter in which the council would have to make its own way. The first step in connection with the report would be to submit it to the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad officials for their approval as under the contract the railroad company was obliged to pay one-half of the damage claims, it had a right to an opinion on the report before it was officially accepted.

The total amount of the damage claims allowed in the report is \$5,225, only about half the sum anticipated that it would take to meet the claims and when it is considered that the town will only be required to pay one-half of that sum, it is evident that both the railroad company and the municipality are getting off very lightly, considering the magnitude of the change in street grades that has resulted from the railroad improvement work.

It may be, and it is very likely that some of the property owners may differ with the Board of Assessors with respect to the awards for damages and may claim much more than has been allowed, and other claims may be made that are not recognized in the report.

Mayor Hauser, who has appeared to favor the project of the acquiring the Michael Winter's property for the purpose of widening Orange street and Watessing avenue at Watessing Centre, suggested that the members of the council bear that matter in mind in considering the report. The \$2,400 damages allowed Mr. Winters and the promise of other property owners at Watessing Centre to waive their damages, the mayor said, would be a considerable help in the acquisition of the property.

That clause in the railroad improvement contract relating to the payment of damages resulting from changes in street grades in the Watessing district, reads as follows:

"The town shall in the first instance pay all sums of money which may be awarded to or recovered by the owners of land or buildings for the damages resulting from the vacation or alteration of the grades of streets pursuant to this agreement, and all expenses and costs of any litigation or legal proceedings in connection therewith, provided, however, that the railroad companies shall pay to the town one-half of the amount of all such damages as may be lawfully awarded to or recovered by the owners of lands or buildings, resulting from the changes of grade and the vacation of streets in the Watessing district south of Peloubet street."

To-morrow afternoon at half past four o'clock, the choir and chorus of the First Presbyterian Church will sing "The Man of Nazareth," composed by J. H. Rogers.

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Why not place your business account here where you get maximum returns on the unused portion, interest credited monthly—the best kind of a short term investment with the added facilities of every convenience of conservative banking?

MYSTERY IN A CRATER.

An Arizona Puzzle That the Geologists Cannot Solve.

About forty miles from Flagstaff, Ariz., in the midst of a great plain, there is a saucer shaped hollow about three-quarters of a mile across and 900 feet deep. The rim of this strange crater rises between 150 and 200 feet above the surrounding plain. Rocky fragments are scattered for several miles around the crater. Among these rocks many fragments of meteoric iron, some containing minute black diamonds, have been found. The inner walls show that the crust of the earth was broken when the crater was formed, yet no volcanic rocks exist there.

Geologists have offered several theories to account for this singular phenomenon. One is that an immense meteorite made the hole and that the meteoric fragments just mentioned are remnants of the falling star.

Another theory ascribes the origin of the crater to a tremendous explosion of steam in the rocks beneath, and a third combines the first two by suggesting that the blow of a falling meteorite, striking the earth's crust at a point where subterranean water had accumulated in the neighborhood of heated rocks, was the cause of the explosion.—New York Press.

Plants Breaking Up an Island.

The layman would scarcely associate great strength with so delicate and fragile a thing as maidenhair fern, yet if its roots have not sufficient room they will break the pot in which the plant grows. Blades of grass will force the curbstones between which they spring up out of their place, and in a single night a crop of small mushrooms has been known to lift a large stone. Indeed, plants are on record as having broken the hardest rocks.

The island of Aldabra, to the north-west of Madagascar, is becoming smaller through the action of the mangroves that grow along the foot of the cliffs. They eat their way into the rock in all directions, and into the gaps thus formed the waves force their way. In time this will probably reduce the island to pieces.—London Telegraph.

Shaving the Bridegroom.

The shaving of the bridegroom on his wedding day is a Bulgarian custom which, handed down from pre-Christian days, is still observed with due formality, especially in country districts. While the barber is at his task a dancing crowd of young folk surrounds him and the bridegroom. As the latter's hair is cut the snippets are carefully collected by some of the girls for preservation in one of the bride's chests. The barber, when his work is done, receives a small white linen cloth as a present and also a trifling sum of money from each person there. Then the bridegroom kisses the hands of the girls, washes his face and dons his wedding dress, which must first be carefully weighed three times by one of the boys.

The Boston and New York Mail.

The first mail between New York and Boston was established in 1672. The letters were carried by a messenger, who was directed to "go and return as often as once a month." This monthly service seems to have been sufficient for some thirty years, when it was changed to a fortnightly service. In 1683 a well organized system of postoffices was established in Pennsylvania and in other localities.—New York American.

Brief Manual of Training.

A high school freshman wrote to a juvenile publication, earnestly inquiring what he should do to win a coming event in school athletics—the 100 yard dash.

"Run a little faster than the other fellows," wrote the editor in reply.—Youth's Companion.

No Chance.

"Mrs. Brown's husband tells his wife everything."

"Maybe she makes it easy for him. You won't give me a chance to get a word in edgewise."—Detroit Free Press.

Miss Garnet Anderson, a contralto soloist of Pittsburg, was the guest this week of Mrs. J. D. Arnold of Glen-ridge avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Messenger of New York, are guests at the home of their daughter, Mrs. E. B. Pierson in Hillside avenue.

If your feet hurt you go to Dr. C. J. Neff, Surgeon Chiropodist, Trust Company building.—Adv.

Church News.

The order of services in the Church of the Ascension tomorrow is as follows: Holy communion, 8 A. M.; morning prayer, litany and sermon, 10:30 A. M.; Sunday-school, 12 M.; evening prayer and sermon, 8 P. M. Week-day services: Litany and sermon, Wednesday at 4 P. M.; preacher, the Rev. Charles H. Wells of St. Andrews, Newark. Evening prayer and sermon, Friday at 8:15 P. M.; preacher, the Rev. H. W. Hopkins, St. Luke's, Montclair. Seats free. Good music. All welcome.

A cake sale will be held in the rooms of the Church of the Ascension, Saturday afternoon, from 4 until 6 o'clock. Because of the disturbances in China, Bishop Earl Cranston of Washington, will not be able to preside over the coming Newark Conference of the Methodist Church, to be held in the First Church in Montclair beginning March 27. In his place Bishop Joseph F. Berry of Buffalo, who directed the local conference in Newark seven years ago, will act.

After consultation with the four district superintendents of the Newark Conference, Bishop Cranston announced yesterday afternoon that he would be obliged to preside over the session of the Baltimore Conference.

Plans are being made by the Sunday-school Association of Essex County for the fifth annual June walk on Saturday, June 1. It is expected that the gathering this year will far surpass that of other years. Last year eleven divisions, comprising in all about 25,000 people, participated.

Marshals for the walk have been appointed as follows: Branch Brook Park division, Alfred Donaldson; Lincoln Park division, Charles H. Stewart; West Side Park division, Dr. Carl H. Wintsch; Irvington division, A. Leroy Baggett; Orange Mountain division, S. D. Riddle; East Orange division, George H. Neidlinger.

Town Hall Discussion.

Efforts are being made to interest the citizens of the town in an agitation having in view the erection of a municipal building, known as a town hall. It is several years now since a similar agitation in favor of a new high school building was started in much the same way, and is now almost an accomplished fact.

There is merit in the subject wrought up for discussion. At various times within the past twenty-five years the town hall project has been before the public, and at times it has reached the point of being put under way.

The Board of Trade at one time favored the Nash property, at the junction of Broad and Franklin streets, as a site for a town hall, at another time the council sought options on other properties for a municipal building site.

A question that will arise in any discussion of a town hall project and of equal importance with the question of cost, is that of a site.

Glen Ridge Notes.

The Woman's Club of Glen Ridge met Tuesday afternoon in the Congregational Church. After the half-hour business meeting, Mrs. J. H. T. Martin sang. Dr. Henry Turner Bailey lectured on "Mountain Laurel," and urged its selection as the national flower.

The Woman's Guild and the Men's League of the Glen Ridge Congregational Church will give a dinner in the church parlors Wednesday evening, March 20. James Schermerhorn of Detroit, will be the speaker.

A card party was given Tuesday night at the Glen Ridge Club. There were fifteen tables of bridge and five of 500. The affair was in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ames and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas G. Smith. Prizes were won by Mrs. C. V. White, Miss Janet Van Auklen, Miss Ethel Compton, Frank Van Auklen and Mr. R. Flint.

Mrs. Harry L. Noyes of Niagara Falls, formerly of this place, is the guest of Mrs. Albert J. Bruno of Windsor place.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Hart of Ridgewood avenue, have bought a house in Caldwell and will move there this spring.

Mrs. E. E. Bell of Snowden place, gave the first of a series of two afternoons at bridge at her home Wednesday. The second bridge will be held Thursday afternoon.

Miss Dorothy Mayer of Brooklyn, is the guest of Mrs. E. W. Congdon, of Ridgewood avenue.

Miss Dorothy Langworth, who spent the week-end with friends in New York, has returned to her home in Windsor place.

Dr. Roscoe E. Doolittle and family will give up their home in Hillside avenue this spring to move to Washington, D. C. Dr. Doolittle has been appointed an assistant to Dr. Wiley.

Mrs. E. E. Reiss of Riverton, is the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Guy Parker, of Washington place.

Talbot Root of Ridgewood avenue, is spending several weeks at Mt. Clemens, Mich.

The Readers' Five Hundred Club met Wednesday at the home of Mrs. G. C. Hunter in Clark street.

The Monday Bridge Club met at the home of Mrs. J. H. T. Martin, in Lincoln street.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Schwinn of Ridgewood avenue, entertained at their home Saturday evening in honor of Miss Lida Quick of Trenton, who is their guest.

Rev. Clarence Hall Wilson of Ridgewood avenue, has been spending a few days in Williamsstown and occupied the pulpit at Williams College.

The Wednesday Five Hundred Club was entertained this week by Miss Mary Zabriske, of Windsor place.

BLOOMFIELD A PROSPEROUS TOWN.

It is claimed for Bloomfield that a larger portion of her inhabitants own the homes they occupy than any town suburban to New York. This is substantial proof of the thrift and self-reliance of our people. In nearly all cases, ownership of the home began when the Savings Bank account was started, and progressed by slow but sure steps. For forty years the BLOOMFIELD SAVINGS INSTITUTION at No. 11 Broad street has assisted these savers and fostered their small savings by the addition of interest which in the aggregate now amounts to over half a million dollars.

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If you contemplate buying or renting, or need money for a mortgage loan, communicate with me.

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Many persons suffer with every symptom of flat-foot when, upon ordinary examination of the foot, the appearance of the foot is normal. A person having this trouble usually complains of pains and aches in the feet, tiring after short walks, and a desire to rest the toes and a general burning sensation, also pains in the back and spine and nervousness are frequently found to be caused by this condition. In the later stages, the muscles have become so weakened and relaxed that the weight of the body crushes down the arch structure. Come in and let me examine your feet. I have arches and other orthopedic appliances designed by Dr. Scholl, and endorsed by medical authorities.

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OFFICE HOURS:

9 A. M. to 12 M. 1.30 to 5.30 P. M.
Monday and Saturday evenings, 7 to 9 P. M.
Note change in the evening hours.

H. B. Riggs of Douglass road, is registered at the Hotel Bothwell, Atlantic City, for a week.

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus B. Cowing, Jr., who have been spending a week at Cape Cod, have returned to their home in Snowden place.

The department of art of the Woman's Club of Glen Ridge held a meeting Wednesday morning at the residence of Miss Ida B. Ellis in Ridgewood avenue, at 10 o'clock. The subject was "Goya—the Man and His Paintings."

J. P. Fireng of Ridgewood avenue, has returned from Bermuda.

Miss Margaret Davidson, who has been the guest of Miss Margaret Homer

Burglar and Fire Proof Vaults. We have complete facilities for the store of valuables. Safety Boxes at \$4.00 per annum and upwards. The Bloomfield National Bank.—Adv.